



California Postsecondary Education Commission

Minutes of the Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of March 2, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Howard Welinsky, Chair
John P. Perez
Ralph R. Pesqueira

OTHER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Olivia K. Singh, Vice Chair
Kenneth A. Noonan

CALL TO ORDER

Governmental Relations Committee Chair Welinsky called the March 2nd meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Committee members present were Chair Welinsky, John Perez, and Ralph Pesqueira. Also present via telephone were Commission Chair Olivia Singh and Kenneth Noonan.

PROSPECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR THE 2007-08 SESSION

Chair Welinsky reviewed the matrix of 55 bills of interest for the 2007-2008 Legislative session: 24 priority bills for action and 31 recommended for consent. He recommended that the Committee approve the Consent Calendar—bills with a “Watch” recommendation—as presented by staff. The motion carried with unanimous consent.

Chair Welinsky then introduced Sherri Orland, Legislative Director, and Kevin Woolfork, Budget Policy Coordinator. Ms. Orland and Mr. Woolfork jointly presented each of the bills proposed for action. Further, Ms. Orland indicated that many of these bills are only “spot” bills at this point in the process. Of the 24 priority bills discussed, 13 bills were recommended for a “Watch” position, 6 bills were recommended for a “Support” position, 4 bills were recommended for a “Support in Concept” position, and 1 bill was recommended for a “Support, if Amended” position. The Committee approved changing the “Watch” position to a “Support, in Concept” position on SB 302 (De La Torre).

The Committee approved the following changes:

- SB 325 (Scott) ~~Watch~~ (Support, in Concept)
- AB 365 (Portantino) Support and Sponsor
- AB 286 (Cook) Watch --Staff to research if the Commission supported AB 540

Following an extensive discussion on AB 1409 (Portantino), Commissioner Pesqueira moved the staff recommendation to “Watch” position, with consideration to upgrade this position to “Support” at a later time; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Perez. The motion carried.

Commissioner Welinsky moved to change the Watch Position on AB 302 (De La Torre) to Support in Concept. Commissioner Perez seconded this motion; motion carried with unanimous consent.

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- AB 302 (De La Torre) ~~Watch~~ (Support, in Concept)

Mr. Woolfork reviewed AB 1038 (Feuer) and discussed issues involved in determining the total cost of education. Committee members recommended that the Commission might offer a range rather than a total cost of educating a student.

PROPOSED COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES IN THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2007-08 STATE BUDGET

Chair Welinsky called on Kevin Woolfork, Budget Policy Coordinator, to present the staff budget recommendations. Following Mr. Woolfork's presentation and accompanying matrix, which identified the Governor's Budget Proposals, Legislative Analyst's Office positions, and Commission staff recommendations, the Committee recommended adopting the staff's recommendations on the higher education budget in their entirety.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business before the Committee, Chair Welinsky adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee at 12:11 p.m.